

FEB 12 2007

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 17 is amended. Claims 18-21 remain in the application. Claims 22-27 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner based on the election of the species of Invention I in the December 5, 2005 Response.

Thus, claims 17-21 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Substitute Specification

Minor editorial revisions have been made to the substitute specification filed on June 24, 2004 to correct typographical errors and to otherwise improve the English grammar and U.S. form of the specification. The above revisions to the substitute specification do not add new matter. Accordingly, entry and approval of the revisions to the substitute specification are respectfully requested.

II. Art Rejections

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreder (U.S. 5,504,482) in view of Naito et al. (U.S. 6,628,417, hereinafter “Naito”). Without intending to acquiesce to this rejection, claim 17 has been amended to more clearly illustrate the marked differences between the present invention and the applied references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentable over the applied references for the following reasons.

The present invention provides an interactive navigation system that includes a server and a mobile apparatus, which a user operates to perform a route search. The interactive navigation system of the present invention provides includes both a local and remote interactive navigation system. In particular, the present invention provides that route guidance can be performed on both the local side (i.e., in the mobile apparatus) and by a remote server. The user of the mobile apparatus can perform route guidance based on map data that is already stored in the mobile apparatus. If the user uses map data stored in the mobile apparatus to perform route guidance, the user does not need to pay for new map data.

However, since road conditions frequently change due to traffic or weather conditions, the stored map data may no longer indicate the optimum route, or the stored data may be out of date due to changed route conditions. In addition, it may also be possible that the mobile apparatus has not stored map data for a particular location, in which case it will be necessary to obtain new map data for the location in which the mobile apparatus does not possess map data. Due to these factors, the present invention provides that the user of the mobile apparatus can obtain new map data from the remote server. However, if the user obtains new map data from the server, the user must pay for the new map data. For example, when obtaining new map data from the server, the user of the mobile apparatus must be pay a fee for the new map data as well as a fee for costs incurred by communicating with the remote server.

The user of the mobile apparatus is notified of the date on which the map data was stored in the mobile apparatus when the mobile apparatus is able to perform a route guidance based on the stored map data. Therefore, based on the storage date of the map data which is notified to the user, the user of the mobile apparatus can then determine whether to perform a route guidance locally based on the stored map data, or instruct the server to perform a new route guidance based on new map data stored in the server. In other words, the present invention provides that when a route guidance cannot be performed by the mobile apparatus or the user of the mobile apparatus desires newer map data, a route guidance is performed by the server.

Typically, a user of the mobile apparatus desires to view the most recent version of the map data, but the user will also want to minimize the amount of charges for obtaining new map data. Therefore, based on the storage date of the map data that is presented to the user by the notification unit, the user can determine whether to obtain new map data from the server and thereby determine when to incur new costs for the new map data.

Accordingly, the interactive navigation system of the present invention allows a user to determine whether he or she wants to obtain new map data from the server based on the date on which the map data was stored into the storage medium. By allowing the user to decide whether he or she wants to obtain new map data from the server or reuse map data that is already stored in the storage unit of the mobile apparatus, the user can

thereby control the costs that are associated with using the interactive navigation system. Further, by allowing the user to selectively obtain new map data of an optimum route as he or she desires, the interactive navigation system of the present invention allows the provider of the map data, i.e., the server, to efficiently use communication bandwidths.

Accordingly, the present invention realizes an interactive navigation system which provides route guidance based on the user's preferences as to which map data to use for the route guidance.

These features of the present invention are described, for example, in paragraphs [0161] and [0162], which are reproduced below. The following reproduction of paragraphs [0161] and [0162] includes asterisked numbers that are used to refer to features recited in amended claim 17.

[0161] If the route guide part 6 determines that the saved data can be reused, the route guide part 6 notifies the user through the display part 9 that (*1) the data in the storage medium can be used for the route guide, and also notifies him/her of a saving date.

[0162] On the other hand, if the route guide part 6 determines that the saved data cannot be reused or (*2) if the user determines, based on the displayed saving date, that a new route search has to be made because the saved date is too old, the route guide part 6 transmits the presently inputted starting point and the destination to the server 51 side. The server 51 side performs a new route search through the same procedure described above based on the received starting point and the destination, and then transmits new data (optimum route, map data, and related information) to the mobile apparatus 52 side. The mobile apparatus 52 side carries out a route guide by using the data newly received from the server 51.

Claim 17 recites the above-described features of the present invention. Claim 17 recites an interactive navigation system comprising a mobile apparatus and a server. The mobile apparatus is recited in claim 17 as comprising an input unit operable to input user input information indicating at least a destination, a first transmitter unit operable to transmit the user input information to the server, and a storage unit operable to store map

data into a storage medium. The mobile apparatus is also recited in claim 17 as comprising a route guidance unit operable to, upon input of the destination via the input unit, determine whether route guidance can be performed by using the map data stored in the storage medium of the storage unit.

In addition, the mobile apparatus of claim 17 is recited as comprising a notification unit which is operable to notify a user of a date on which the map data was stored in a storage medium of the mobile apparatus. In particular, claim 17 recites that the notification unit is operable to notify the user (*1) that the map data stored in the storage medium can be used for route guidance, and notify the user of the date on which the map data was stored into the storage medium when the route guidance unit determines that the route guidance can be performed.

Furthermore, claim 17 recites that the first transmitter unit is operable to transmit the user input information to the server when at least one of the route guidance unit determines that the route guidance cannot be performed and (*2) the user provides an instruction to perform a new route guidance in response to the notification unit notifying the user of the date on which the map data was stored into the storage medium.

Neither Schreder nor Naito disclose or suggest the above-described features of the present invention for the following reasons.

Schreder discloses an automobile navigation system in which a mobile apparatus provided in a vehicle communicates with a server to obtain route guidance information based on considerations of traffic patterns and travel time in view of the vehicle's current position. Schreder discloses that a driver information system 24 in the vehicle computes route guidance information that is correlated between received vehicular information including a desired destination point entered by the user of the vehicle, map information stored in a map storage system 46, current position information of the vehicle from a vehicle dynamic position system 22, and traffic flow information from a radio data system 28 (see Column 8, lines 60-66).

Schreder also discloses that the driver information system 24 in the vehicle can compute a first route and a second route. According to Schreder, traffic flow data is received in advance, and when a high level of traffic is indicated by the traffic flow data, the second route is calculated (see Column 10, lines 22-27 and Column 13, lines 38-47).

Accordingly, Schreder discloses that the first and second routes are both processed by the mobile apparatus in the vehicle.

Therefore, in contrast to the interactive navigation system of claim 17, Schreder clearly does not disclose or suggest an interactive navigation system that is configured as both a local and remote interactive navigation system in which route guidance is performed by the server when route guidance is unable to be performed by the mobile apparatus or the user of the mobile apparatus instructs the server to perform a new route guidance.

Moreover, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Schreder clearly fails to disclose or suggest a mobile apparatus comprising a notifying unit which is operable to notify the user of the mobile apparatus of a date on which the map data was stored in the storage medium of the mobile apparatus.

In an attempt to teach notifying a user of a date on which map data is stored, the Examiner applied Naito. However, the Applicant respectfully submits that Naito does not cure the deficiencies of Schreder for the following reasons.

Naito discloses a data communication apparatus in which a center server 102 stores and manages display image data, and transfers requested image display data to a client computer 101 upon receiving a request for such data from the client computer 101. Upon receiving requested image data, the user of the client computer 101 is able to preview the image data to determine whether the user wants to print the image data. Naito discloses that the requested image data transferred to the client computer 101 is initially less defined and is smaller in size than that of the original image data, so that the user can preview the image data. In particular, Naito discloses that the center server 102 holds image data to be transferred to the client computer 101 on the basis of a request for the image data from the client computer 101, and retrieves an image from an image server 111 based on a request for the image from the center server 102. If the user of the client computer wishes to print the received image data, the user sends a print request to the center server 102 along with requested print size information, and the center server 102 sends a print instruction to a print server 121 to print the requested image data. When printing is requested by the user of the client computer 101, the printing server

121-12N processes high-definition and high-volume print data and provides it to the client computer 101 (see Column 4, lines 43-63).

With reference to Figure 33 and Column 39, lines 53-62, the Examiner contends that Naito discloses that the user of the computer 101 is notified of a date on which the image data is stored in a storage medium. The Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the disclosure of Naito clearly does not support the Examiner's contention.

In particular, the portions of Naito cited by the Examiner merely disclose that pieces of data to be transmitted to the user computer 101 are accumulated in the center server 102, and unprocessed pieces of data among the accumulated data are sequentially processed in an ascending order of values indicating the dates and times at which the unprocessed pieces of data have been stored in the center server 102.

However, the dates and times stored in the center server 102 (as well as the image servers 111-11N and print servers 121-12N) are never notified to the user of the client computer 101. Instead, the dates and times stored in the center server 102, the image server 111 and print server 121 are merely for sequentially processing data that have been accumulated in these servers. However, the user is not notified of the dates and times that the unprocessed pieces of data accumulated in the center, image and print servers 102, 111 and 121 are stored.

If the Examiner wishes to maintain that Naito somehow discloses that the user of the client computer 101 is notified of the date on which the unprocessed pieces of data accumulated in the center, image and print servers 102, 111 and 121 are stored in these servers, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide an explanation as to how she has come to this conclusion, because the Applicant respectfully submits that there is no reasonable justification for this belief. The Applicant respectfully submits that the portions of Naito cited by the Examiner, or any other portion of Naito for that matter, provide no reasonable support for the contention that the user of the client computer 101 is ever notified of the dates on which the unprocessed data accumulated in the center, image and print servers 102, 111 and 121 is stored in these servers.

Furthermore, the storage dates referred to in Naito concern the dates on which the unprocessed pieces of data are stored in the center, image and print servers 102, 111 and

121, not the date on which the unprocessed data is stored in a storage medium of the client computer 101.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Naito also clearly fails to disclose or suggest a notification unit which is operable to notify a user of the date on which data was stored in a storage medium of the user's apparatus, as recited in claim 17.

Moreover, similar to Schreder, the Applicant respectfully submits that Naito also clearly fails to disclose or suggest an interactive navigation system in which a user is presented with information to enable the user to process at a local side (mobile apparatus) and a remote side (server).

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that Schreder and Naito each fail to disclose or suggest the following limitations of claim 17:

- (1) a notification unit operable to notify a user of a date on which the map data was stored into the storage medium of the mobile apparatus, where the notification unit is operable to notify the user that the map data stored in the storage medium can be used for route guidance, and notify the user of the date on which the map data was stored into the storage medium when the route guidance unit determines that the route guidance can be performed; and
- (2) a first transmitter unit operable to transmit the user input information to the server when at least one of the route guidance unit determines that the route guidance cannot be performed and the user provides an instruction to perform a new route guidance in response to the notification unit notifying the user of the date on which the map data was stored into the storage medium.

Accordingly, no obvious combination of Schreder and Naito would result in the invention of claim 17 since Schreder and Naito, either individually or in combination, clearly fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 17.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is clearly patentable over Schreder and Naito since Schreder and Naito, either individually or in combination, clearly fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 17.

In item 8 on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreder in view of Naito and further in view of Hoshino et al. (U.S. 6,088,580, hereinafter "Hoshino").

As demonstrated above, Schreder and Naito each fail to disclose or suggest features (1) and (2) of claim 17.

Similar to Schreder and Naito, Hoshino also fails to disclose or suggest features (1) and (2) of claim 17.

Consequently, Hoshino does not cure the deficiencies of Schreder and Naito for failing to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 17.

Accordingly, no obvious combination of Schreder, Naito and Hoshino would result in the invention of claim 17 since Schreder, Naito and Hoshino, either individually or in combination, clearly fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation recited in claim 17.

Furthermore, it is submitted that the clear distinctions discussed above are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to modify Schreder, Naito and Hoshino in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claim 17.

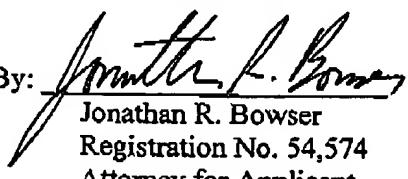
Therefore, it is submitted that the claim 17, as well as claims 18-23 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art as applied by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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